

Representative Town Meeting Town of Darien, CT

RULES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Special Meeting, May 16, 2005

8:15 p.m., Town Hall, Room 213

Committee Attendance: K. Armour, R. Hoyt, D. Maroney, S. Morton, B. Rayhill, V. Riccardo, F. Smith, G. Swenson, M. Thorne, J. Warren, V. Wenger

Guest Attendance: C. Andrew, W. Fox, P. Hovell, E. Klein, J. Miceli

Absent: H. Pegler, M. Pontius

Ms. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for a Special Meeting of the RTM scheduled for June 13, 2005.

Among the matters which are expected to be presented at that meeting is a second supplemental agreement between the Town and the CT Department of Transportation relating to the lease for the properties comprising the Darien and Noroton Heights Railroad Stations (the "Amended Railroad Lease"). The Committee considered this matter first.

Messrs. Warren and Hovell commented about the need to amend Section 50-8 of the Darien Code of Ordinances to comply with the intent of the Amended Railroad Lease. Mr. Warren was concerned that the TGS&A Committee, which will consider the matter at its June 6, 2005 meeting, may not have sufficient time to complete its reviews, draft any recommended language changes and present such changes to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance prior to June 13. Mr. Hovell was concerned that the creation of a new account for capital improvements at the stations and their adjacent parking lots, as contemplated by the Amended Railroad Lease and the proposed change to Section 50-8, could impede the Board of Finance's authority to direct appropriations. Mr. Fox assured Mr. Hovell that he did not think the proposed changes will have that effect.

A lengthy discussion about the Town's new responsibilities under the Amended Railroad Lease, and the possible financial consequences of its termination ensued. Mr. Warren observed that the RTM is the appropriate body to debate the merits of the proposal, and that the Rules Committee should limit its concern to whether the matter will be ready for presentation at the June 13 Special Meeting. The Committee agreed, and decided that the Amended Railroad Lease and the amendment to Section 50-8 of the Darien Code of Ordinances should be placed on the June 13 agenda.

With the exception of Mr. Andrew, the Committee's guests departed at the conclusion of the Amended Railroad Lease discussion.

Upon Ms. Armour's request, the Committee unanimously accepted the minutes of its April 11, 2005 meeting. The Committee then discussed including changes to the land use and EPC fee schedules on the June 13 agenda. Mr. Warren moved that the matter be assigned to the PZ&H (primary) and F&B (secondary) Committees, and placed on the June 13 agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Committee declined to add the appointment of the Board of Education as the Building Committee for capital projects under \$1 million to the June 13 agenda. (This decision was later reversed, and the matter has been added to the June 13 agenda.)

Mr. Warren then reported that the TGS&A Committee would be ready to report upon proposed changes to Section 46 of Darien's Charter regarding purchasing practices at the June 13 meeting. He added that the proposed administrative changes to the Code of Ordinances regarding Parks & Recreation would also be ready for consideration by the RTM at its June 13 meeting.

After a brief discussion of other matters which will not be included on the June 13 agenda (the Challenger field, regulations regarding dogs in parks, parking regulations, and the clamming survey) and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee set the agenda for the June 13 RTM meeting as follows:

- Consideration and action on land use and EPC fees
- Consideration and action on changes to the Charter regarding purchasing practices
- Consideration and action on administrative changes to the Code of Ordinances regarding Parks & Recreation
- Consideration and action on the Amended Railroad Lease
- Consideration and action on amendments to Section 50-8 of the Code of Ordinances to conform to the Amended Railroad Lease.

Ms. Armour then reported that Ms. Klein wanted to make a first six months of 2005 report to the RTM at the June 13 meeting. Mr. Morton opined that the agenda was already quite full. Mr. Thorne thought the report was a good idea. Ms. Smith suggested that such a report should be addressed to OPC first. Mr. Warren agreed with Ms. Smith, and added that presenting reports about matters unrelated to the RTM's agenda could be viewed as political. The Committee agreed that it may be better to include such a report in the meeting package, simply giving the RTM's members an opportunity to read it.

Ms. Armour then reported about the rationale for removing the defeasance item from the May 9, 2005 RTM meeting agenda. Bond Counsel advised that the item was unnecessary since the RTM had taken similar action at the immediately preceding meeting. The Committee had included the item on the May 9 agenda to institute the practice of considering the matter annually at the RTM's Budget Meeting. The Committee will remain mindful of this resolve when setting the agenda for the 2006 Budget meeting.

Then, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Riccardo, Clerk